

13th November 1922]

V

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

(1)

The SECRETARY laid on the table proceedings of the eighth, ninth and tenth meetings for 1922-23 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held on the 14th September and the 26th and 30th October 1922, respectively.*

(2)

The SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Survey and Settlement Retrenchment Committee.†

VI

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1922-23.

Grant I.

11-30 a.m. The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Mr. President, I beg to move

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 19,820 under '22. General Administration—District Administration—General Establishment' on account of the temporary staff sanctioned for reconstruction work in Malabar.

"As the House is, I think, aware, the monetary assistance which the Government have been giving in Malabar in the form of relief for reconstruction work is largely by means of loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. For this purpose a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been set aside. The work to be done consists in paying visits to all portions of the rebellion area, inspecting the ruined houses and inquiring into the condition of the persons affected. This work was obviously beyond the powers of the ordinary staff and it has been found necessary to employ a small additional staff for the purpose. Up to the present that staff has dealt with loans amounting to 9 lakhs of rupees. The staff is very small, consisting of two Superintendents of the grade of Deputy Collectors, seven supervisors, two clerks and eleven peons, and the total expense, it will be observed, is something less than two per cent of the amount of money that the staff has to deal with. That, I think, is a very small charge for administration. At the time of the budget it was impossible to forecast the extent of these operations and, moreover, we expected that it would be possible to reappropriate from another head connected with the Malabar rebellion. But the Accountant-General has told us that that is impossible and that the charge must be debited to this particular grant. On that ground I ask the House to grant a sum of Rs. 19,820 under this head."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I have some information from the hon. Member with reference to this particular demand? The hon. Mr. Knapp said that loans were being granted to people in the area affected by the rebellion. I wish to know if it extends to the whole of Malabar area, including portions of Calicut, Ponani, and Wynad taluks, or if it is confined to Ernad and Walluvanad. Another piece of information

* Vide Appendix VII at page 577 infra.

† Vide Appendix VIII at page 585 infra.

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that I request from the hon. Member is whether the period of the temporary staff sanctioned at the time of the budget has expired and what is the period for which this temporary staff is intended."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"With regard to the second point, Sir, I am afraid I omitted to mention that the period for which we wanted to employ these men is till 31st December—a total period of ten months from the 1st of March. At the time of the budget we made no provision. With regard to the scope of the loan operations . . ."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"At the time of the budget, the hon. Mr. Knapp says no provision was made. Was it an omission to make any provision at all till 31st December or till 31st March?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"At the time of the budget it was impossible to forecast the demand which would arise in this connexion. We thought that money would be available by reappropriation under other heads in connexion with the rebellion, in fact, in connexion with my own pay. Therefore the question of provision in the budget does not arise. As regards the other question of the area of the loan operations, they extend to the whole of the rebellion area, Ernad, most of Walluvanad and parts of Ponani and Calicut taluks. I am not aware that any reason for extending it to Wynad and the rest of Malabar has arisen."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I want to raise some points with reference to these supplementary demands. I noticed at the time the grants were asked for that they were all on account of the reserved departments. I do not know whether this means that the sums that might have been saved by the transferred departments are being utilized in the reserved departments. Sir, this Council effected various reductions in the budget appropriations asked for by the Government in March. The economy effected at the budget session is frittered away at any rate in the subsequent grants. I would like to request the hon. the Finance Member to let us know what total was asked for by way of supplementary grants till now, what savings, whether by way of retrenchment proper or lapses and various other means which however do not reduce the budget of the coming year, have been made: how much of the expenditure thus saved has been saved from the transferred subjects and, with reference to the total of the supplementary grants, how much has been on account of the reserved subjects and how much on account of the transferred subjects. I will inform my hon. friend candidly why it is that these questions are being raised at this stage. There is not the slightest objection on the part of any Member to support any particular demand asked for by the hon. Mr. Knapp. We all know that Malabar was affected and it is our intention to render all possible help to the Government in its policy of healing the sore wounds from which Malabar is suffering. But at the same time we should like to know where we are with regard to the general finances of our Presidency, finance being the one topic of interest to us. It is one of the greatest pre-occupations of legislative minds to-day. These questions, therefore, have been raised in order that we may know clearly what is occurring. There is a general feeling abroad, Sir, and I will put it plainly before you that the economies so far effected, in so

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Grant I—cont.

far as they are of any real nature, have been effected in the transferred departments. I understand, or rather, I believe there is an idea abroad, that a fair amount of money has been resumed from the ministerial branch of the Local Self-Government Department. I should like to know how much has been retrenched or resumed from the ministerial half of the Government and in what directions the supplementary expenditure with which this Council is confronted frequently is spent. I should be glad to ask the Finance Member to kindly give us some information on these topics as the subject is likely to become one of considerable importance in the near future."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"As there are a number of these supplementary grants, I should also like to ask the hon. the Finance Member and the hon. Mr. Knapp where this sum of Rs. 19,820 is proposed to be met from? This is an additional grant and we should like to know how it is proposed to find this money. We have no information whether it would be by reappropriation from any grant under any head or whether any surplus in hand is available out of which this amount is to be met. Similar information is required with reference to the various demands on the paper. We do not know if the reappropriation is to be made from a specific head, major or minor, or from savings under any head or from any general resources which are still unappropriated under any head in the budget. Apart from the question raised by Mr. Ramalinga Reddi it would be useful to have information on the general question raised by him, viz., whether the retrenchments suggested at the presentation of the budget have been given effect to."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I very much fear that the greater portion of the hon. Member Mr. Ramalinga Reddi's speech is absolutely irrelevant. The question before the House is whether the Government should be given a sum of Rs. 19,820. The hon. Member has made a number of observations, no doubt very pertinent and very interesting, with regard to the general financial situation. But really they will not be relevant. If I am now to allow, upon this provision of Rs. 19,820, a general discussion on the general financial policy of the Government, it will end in a general budget debate. If the hon. Member or any other hon. Member is not satisfied with the financial policy of the Government, of course, he has got other ways of bringing that matter up. But, I think, the House should confine itself to the specific issue. I must admit that the questions put by the hon. Member Mr. Ramachandra Rao are perfectly relevant. He asks: 'from what sources will you get the money which you wish to spend?' I have no doubt that some answer to that question will be given. But I would ask hon. Members to confine themselves to the issue raised by the particular request of the Government."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"With reference to the question of Mr. Ramachandra Rao, I have not got the files with me here, but my very strong impression is that savings will be obtained under the heading of my own salary as Special Commissioner which was provided for nine months and which will not be used. This will involve no general increase in the budget."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

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Grant IV.

The.hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I beg to move

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 40,000 under 'Forests' to meet the working expenses of the Russellkonda Saw Mill during 1922-23.

"When the project for establishing this saw mill was originated by an agreement made by Messrs. Parry & Co., it was arranged that the Government should provide, in addition to the initial cost, a certain amount of money to meet the working expenses year by year. It was estimated in the first instance that Rs. 20,000 would be sufficient for the purpose. That amount was provided for in the budget of 1921-22. In March 1922 the Chief Conservator asked the Accountant-General to place the amount at the disposal of Messrs. Parry & Co. He did so, but there seems to have been some misunderstanding. The intention of the Forest Department and the intention of the Government was that the sum of Rs. 20,000 should be held at the credit of Messrs. Parry & Co. as a standing advance which could be recouped from the profits. The Accountant-General, however, treated it as a grant available only for 1921-22. Messrs. Parry & Co. having drawn no money up to April 1922, asked for it since and were told that there was no provision in the budget for 1922-23. What I am therefore asking for as regards Rs. 20,000 out of this Rs. 40,000 is merely a renewal of money granted last year in the budget. But the experience of the last three or four months during which time the mill has been working shows that Rs. 20,000 is hardly enough. At least it is not enough until we can put it on the basis of a standing credit to be recouped from time to time from the profit of the mill, that is to say, until we introduce into the Russellkonda Saw Mill the system of commercial accounts. On this subject we are now holding correspondence and consultation with the Auditor-General, and the skilled auditor whom he has sent us. With regard to the current year we find up to the end of July that the management has already expended Rs. 17,598 on working expenses and the balance will not be sufficient. It is estimated that if we are not to embarrass them, we should place at their disposal a further sum of Rs. 20,000 in the current year."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Sir, I should like to ask for information
11-45 a.m. on two points with reference to this demand for supplementary grant. The first is, whether the amount of Rs. 20,000 provided for in the budget of last year 1921-22—and not drawn for this specific purpose—was utilized for any other purpose; that is to say, whether it was reappropriated or was not spent at all. This is my first point. My second point is a reiteration of a former request, viz., from what source do Government propose to find this amount? Is it from sums now appropriated for expenditure under the major head 'Forests' or is it from the general savings? I would like to emphasise the importance of looking at the question from this point of view. If the money is to be got from the general savings which are the result of retrenchment, are they to be utilized in this manner for the benefit of the most favoured departments as it were and are they not to be used for the benefit of the transferred half of the Government?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Sir, as regards the first amount of Rs. 20,000, I am afraid I do not quite understand the difficulty of my hon. friend. The amount of Rs. 20,000 which was provided for in the budget of last year

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Grant IV—cont.

lapsed on the 31st March. Thus there is no question of reappropriation. So far as I know, that money has gone into the general funds and indirectly, therefore, is available for use in the form of a fresh grant this year. As regards the question from what source the other Rs. 20,000 is to come, I am afraid I am not able to answer that point; but if the question is considered relevant, I must leave it to be answered by my hon. colleague, the Finance Member."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"I hope I may be able to set the hon. Member's mind somewhat at rest in this matter, though I cannot answer his questions absolutely specifically, point by point. There is a very useful machine called the National Cash Register, in which you put the cash and turn a handle and out comes a paper which tells you exactly what is the result of the transaction. The hon. Member seems to think that the Finance Member is a sort of automatic cash register to tell him exactly how many rupees are in the till at any given moment. I am afraid that that is expecting too much, but I can tell this to the hon. Member that, whereas we expected to close last year with a minus balance of 53 lakhs of rupees, we actually closed with a plus balance of one lakh, part of which was this Rs. 20,000 to which the hon. Member refers. So I hope he will be satisfied that our efforts at retrenchment during the closing months of last year met with some measure of success.

"As regards the question whether each of these items of supplementary grants is covered by a specific excess under some other head, I may say to the hon. Member that I hold in my hand a copy of the six-monthly estimates prepared by the Accountant-General. I find from it that there is not one single item of revenue and not one single item of expenditure that agrees exactly with the budget proportion, nor is it possible to keep the accounts in the manner he supposes. We do not say we are going to get a little more excise revenue or some other revenue and appropriate that for this or that supplementary grant. This has to come from the common pool; and any addition also goes into the common pool.

"Again the hon. Member accuses us of making economies at the expense of the transferred departments in order that we may utilize more money for the reserved departments. I venture to say, Sir, that it is a most baseless accusation and I hope my hon. colleagues the Ministers will bear me out in saying so. The need for supplementary grants arises when we find that we cannot carry on the work under particular heads of the budget with the amount provided for them. Whether the head that is inadequate belongs to a reserved department or to a transferred department depends on a number of considerations, one of which is the attitude taken by the Council in voting on particular heads in the budget debate. I think the Council will probably support me when I say that the heads which were most severely cut in the budget debate were those belonging to the reserved departments."

MR. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Are supplementary grants a retaliation for the voting by the Council?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"There is no question of retaliation. We cannot starve some departments utterly and hence we have to come forward with supplementary demands."

DIWAN BAHADUR M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I should like to ask the hon. the Finance Member whether the Government have the practice

[Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu] [13th November 1922]

Grant IV—cont.

of asking the departments concerned, when they come for any supplementary grant, whether they could not meet the 'need' by reappropriation from the funds allotted to the particular department. We have some such thing in the district boards. Whenever any particular department comes and asks for a supplementary grant, we ask them if they cannot get the amount by way of reappropriation. This is a sort of economy. Instead of taking the funds from the common pool, it would be better if they can be found by reappropriation if possible. I hope the hon. the Finance Member will tell us whether such a procedure is being followed."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Sir, I am very glad the hon. Member has put this question. When a department comes up for a supplementary grant, we ask them to find the necessary amount by some other means. It is often only when a request comes up for the third or fourth time that the question of asking the Council for a supplementary grant is taken up. Then it goes through a most careful scrutiny by the department concerned and by the Finance Department and from the Finance Department it goes to the Finance Committee, and the Finance Committee does not pass it without a most careful scrutiny. After all these processes are undergone, it is submitted to His Excellency the Governor for permission to lay it before the Council."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I just say a word, Sir? From the statement made by the hon. the Finance Member, we gather that whenever a supplementary grant is made, it is made after every possible attempt to secure reappropriations has been made and that the money is then drawn from the common pool. Now, Sir, if this common pool is to be used, I think that that pool should be one in which the Ministers would soon be drowned. I, therefore, emphatically second the views expressed by Mr. Ramachandra Rao that a certain proportion of savings, whether by lapse or by retrenchment, should be made available for the development departments. Sir, we are to-day asked to vote for these six grants and I do not know what my hon. friends, the Ministers, have been doing. They have not come forward with any demands for supplementary grants and there is a feeling, Sir, that the transferred departments are to some extent sacrificed in order to make larger provision for the reserved departments, and I think that diarchy must imply two treasuries."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"I may say, Sir, that as far as any danger of the hon. the Ministers being drowned in the common pool is concerned, the common pool is generally dry."

The motion was put and carried, and the grant was made.

Grant IX.

12 noon.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"Sir, I beg to move

That the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,500 under the head '47. Miscellaneous' for expenses incurred in connexion with the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

"I might perhaps say in passing that this demand does not come under the criticism of my hon. friend on the right who in his general observations on the whole subject of supplementary grants has suggested that the reserved departments make more

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Grant IX—cont.

encroachments than the transferred on the common pool. This grant actually represents expenditure on a transferred department, but it involves no extra expenditure but merely a transfer for budget purposes from one head to another. This particular instance of Rs. 1,500 represents the allowances which were granted to a certain number of cholera parties which were working in Madras during the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Following precedent, the Local Self-Government sanctioned an allowance of Rs. 3 a day to the assistant surgeons and Re. 1 to the sanitary inspectors, and the amount had been found from the Public Health budget. Unfortunately, the Auditor-General stepped in and told us that it was not the proper head of the budget to debit this sum to and that it must be taken under '47. Miscellaneous' which in the present instance happens to be reserved. Therefore it is I have come forward to make this additional demand."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"Sir, at the instance of the Publicity Board and with the approval of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 5,000 to cover additional expenditure under postage and telegram charges of the Publicity Board.

"As the Council will remember, the original demand on account of the Publicity Board was for Rs. 53,400. It was made up of the following items:—

	Rs.
(i) Salaries of the Publicity Officer (the balance Rs. 24,600 being non-voted)	3,500
(ii) Establishment	14,628
(iii) Travelling and other allowances	1,560
(iv) Contingencies—	
Service postage and telegram charges. 20,000	
Other contingencies	13,600
	<u>33,600</u>
Add for rounding	112
Total	<u>53,400</u>

"The Council made one of those lump sum deductions which were characteristic of our last budget debate and directed us to reduce this sum of Rs. 53,400 by Rs. 20,000. We did this by taking Rs. 12,500 off service postage and telegrams and the balance off other items, leaving a budget of 33,400 distributed as follows:—

	Rs.
(i) Salaries of the Publicity Officer	3,500
(ii) Establishment	12,075
(iii) Allowances	500
(iv) Contingencies—	
Service postage and telegram charges. 7,500	
Other contingencies	9,825
	<u>17,325</u>
Total	<u>33,400</u>

[Sir Charles Tedd Hunter]

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Grant IX—cont.

“At the close of the budget debate we had to bring forward a further demand for the salary of the Publicity Officer amounting to Rs. 10,300 which raised the total to Rs. 43,700. The Publicity Board have now, as a result of the first half year's working, represented that it is impossible for them to carry on their work unless they are given a further sum to cover the postage charges, which have been enhanced as a result of the Government of India's taxation proposals. The amount they ask for is Rs. 5,000 and this only provides for carrying on the work on a very modest scale, that is to say, by reducing the number of leaflets they issue to three for two months, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ per month.

“I hope that the Council will be prepared to pass this very modest proposal.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“There is no use of my opposing this demand. I would only suggest to the Government to consider the desirability of abolishing this department altogether, which would really mean anticipating the wishes of this Council. A review should have been made of the work of this department before any more money is asked for.”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“The review which the hon. Member wishes to have been made will no doubt be made by the Finance Committee in their capacity as Retrenchment Committee.”

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XI.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“I move

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 3,600 under ‘Administration of Justice—Criminal Courts’.

“The amount which I ask for represents the allowances which the Government desire to pay to certain magistrates in Malabar who were engaged in the trial of cases during the late rebellion. For this purpose, six magistrates were appointed as special magistrates under the Martial Law Ordinance and later under the Restoration of Order Ordinance. At first, these officers who were deputed to the district toured all over the area trying cases at convenient centres where the prisoners were kept. They then drew the usual travelling allowances. But later we changed the system and kept them at fixed centres. When they had been at their stations for more than ten days, they ceased to be entitled to any allowance, though they were for all practical purposes in camp, and were put to the expense of maintaining double establishments and incurred, in some cases, a good deal of expenditure on accommodation. There is a good deal of feeling among them that they are being handicapped by the especial employment and it was on that account that Government thought it desirable to give them a special allowance. The matter has been referred to the Finance Committee, and taking into account the peculiar circumstances of the case they have passed payment. I have no doubt that the Council will endorse the recommendation of the Finance Committee.”

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

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Grant XXX.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" Sir, I beg to move

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 35,000 under the head '46. Stationery and Printing—Cost of Books and Periodicals'.

"I am afraid that the hon. Member Mr. Ramalinga Reddi will not find this motion a very good illustration of his theory that the reserved departments are battenning on the miseries of the transferred. We provided in the budget a sum of Rs. 35,000 for the purchase of books and periodicals under the head 'Miscellaneous'. In order to afford the Council the fullest possible information regarding the expenditure of the Government, we approached the Auditor-General with proposals to break up that head so as to bring the items of it under specific heads, and we have now received his sanction to these proposals. As a result the Rs. 35,000 which we put under 'Miscellaneous' cannot be spent and lapses into the common pool. On the other hand, we have to take a similar sum out of the common pool to meet the expenses that we have incurred on books and periodicals and which will under the new classification fall under the head '46. Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

Grant XXXIII.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" I move

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 66,800 under '26 (c). Police—District Executive force—Contingencies—Agency'.

"This is another exception to the rule of my hon. friend on the right (Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi). The amount which I ask for was duly provided in the budget under the ordinary police head. The Accountant-General has pointed out to us that it is necessary for formal budget purposes that it should be transferred to the special head Agency."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I move

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 1,00,000 under '26. Police for expenditure in connexion with the Rampa fituri'.

"Hon. Members are aware that the Government have for some months past been engaged in suppressing a rebellion in a part of the Agency which formerly belonged to the Vizagapatam district. Communiqués have from time to time issued giving such information as it was possible and desirable to give, as regards the nature and the progress of the rebellion or *fituri* as it is locally called. But of course, as the House will understand, there are a great many details of organization and a great deal of information in regard to plans and proposals which it is not altogether desirable for us to publish. The leader of the *fituri* is one Alluri Sri Rama Razu. He is somewhat of an adept in obtaining intelligence; there is good reason to believe that he is in close communication with the plains; and it is not desirable that we should through newspapers or otherwise furnish him with information which might perhaps be invaluable to him.

"The trouble began at the end of August when the Razu with his men made an unexpected attack on the police stations at Chintapalli and two other places. The police of the two places were unable to offer any resistance worth the name and the rebels succeeded in capturing a considerable number of carbines and a large amount of ammunition. I mention this fact in

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

particular, because a good deal more expense will be necessary to deal with a gang armed with weapons of precision than if they were merely armed as in the past with country guns, swords or even bows and arrows.

“ When the trouble began the local reserves, including those from Kistna and Cocanada, mobilized and an attempt was made by means of police parties operating in various directions to round up the gang. During the course of the first operations, the police party under Mr. Tremenheere was ambushed and he retired with the loss of one man. On the 3rd September, a more serious and a more successful ambush was made by the Razu, in which the police suffered severe casualties, including, I very much regret to mention the loss of two Imperial officers. It was clear from this occurrence that the rebels were more dangerous than was anticipated. We placed ourselves in consultation with the General Officer Commanding the Madras District and it was decided that the scheme of operations must be reconsidered and something approaching military organization introduced into our forces. This has now been done and I am glad to say that we have been able to avoid the necessity of employing troops in the area. We have indented on the Malabar police, who had obtained valuable experience during the Malabar rebellion, and their work has been, in every respect, admirable. Only to-day I have received a report from Mr. Happell regarding the Agency operations in which he mentions the remarkable way in which the Malabar special police have discharged their duties. By the courtesy of the General Officer Commanding, we have been allowed to indent on the military department for certain ancillary military services. They have supplied us with mule transport, which have been extremely useful; they have also furnished us with wireless apparatus which, as experience has already shown, is going to be a very valuable asset indeed. They have also sent a military officer as liaison officer to the scene of operations. Weather conditions have not been, however, favourable and fever has been very bad and this has, to a large extent, hampered our work so far. Meanwhile, while we were re-organizing, the Razu and his followers seized the opportunity to make raids on the borders of the Agency tracts. It was feared that this temporary success might perhaps increase his prestige, and lead to accessions to his forces, but according to our present information, that has not been the case, and the gang is no larger now than it was when it began. That, Sir, I think, is an encouraging feature. On the 24th October the Razu following his old tactics and concentrating his forces ambushed our party of police. On this occasion, he succeeded in wounding slightly a Malabar policeman in the foot but according to the information received and which we have every reason to believe, he lost three men killed and one very seriously wounded in doing so. That, Sir, is the work of the Malabar police who, as I have already stated, have behaved excellently throughout. I cannot now say anything more as to the future plans as that would not be advisable. I think we may safely say that we have the position fairly in hand. I should like to be able to give the total number of police who have been employed, but that also is not desirable. It is, of course, a considerable number, as the House will perhaps judge, when I tell them that we have no less than 15 British officers employed with the force. Funds are required for the maintenance and equipment of the force, for the provision of medical comforts, for transport, etc. In this connexion, I may be allowed to mention that through the

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Grant XXXIII—cont.

generosity of the Red Cross Society in Madras a special ambulance has been provided and sent to the scene of operations for the use of the sick and the wounded. To meet expenses a sum of Rs. 20,000 has, as an emergency measure, been certified by His Excellency the Governor under section 72-D of the Government of India Act. It is necessary to regularise that and also to provide funds for carrying on future operations. How much money we shall require altogether it is impossible for me to say now; it will entirely depend on the success of the operations of Mr. Happell who has been placed in charge of the whole forces and upon the length of the campaign. What I am asking for is a grant of one lakh of rupees as a credit on which I can draw for the present."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, we have heard the statement of the hon. Mr. Knapp with some amount of interest. I may perhaps inform this Council that in the part of the country from which I come considerable misapprehensions are entertained in regard to what is going on by way of operations for the suppression of this rebellion. All kinds of wild stories are circulated and therefore we are thankful for whatever has been stated by the hon. Mr. Knapp. We wish to have information regarding the causes of this rebellion. All that we have heard from Mr. Knapp is that suddenly some rebels under the leadership of Srirama Razu numbering about 70 came down and raided two police stations. If that is so, why did he do so? Are there any local causes? I do not say that the hon. Mr. Knapp should obtain the information from Srirama Razu himself. I do not suggest that. But as he visited the locality I should like to know from the hon. Mr. Knapp if he has any information as regards this gang which raided the neighbourhood of the Agency tracts and the exact causes that have induced these simple people to take these steps. Perhaps, Sir, I may refer to a rebellion which took place in 1879 in the Rampa country. At that time the Government spent a lot of money; military operations were carried on for three years and the military were sent down from Madras. Many of them got malaria and many of them were patients in the Rajahmundry hospital for a long time. In the end nothing came out of these operations. Mr. Carmichael as Collector of Vizagapatam had considerable influence on the hill tribes and he was sent down by the Government on a mission of conciliation. He distributed bangles and turbans among the people and he found out the real causes of this rebellion. Of course, it was said at that time that it had its origin in the prohibition of the manufacture of arrack by the hill tribes. The hill tribes who were accustomed to drink arrack had been prevented from doing so. The root of the rebellion also lay in other local causes. At that time Mr. Carmichael called the hill tribes together and explained to them the intentions of the Government and the whole rebellion came to an end. Sir, I do not ask the hon. Mr. Knapp especially in the light of the information he has given us to undertake such a task at once. I should like to know whether he has made any enquiry as to the state of things in the Agency tracts which led these people to raid the police stations. We are told that at present the number of persons under the control of Srirama Razu is about 100. My hon. friend has mentioned that motor lorries, military officers and wireless apparatus and many of the transports of modern warfare have been sent for the suppression of this rebellion of 100 persons in the Agency tracts. I am willing to concede that there are possibilities of this rebellion doing much mischief

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throughout the Agency tracts. The whole question is one which requires probing; we must enquire into the causes that led to this rebellion and to set right the local administration. Sir, I do not wish to refer at this stage to the great changes that have come over the administration of the Agency tracts by the establishment of an Agency Commissioner. I shall have to say a good deal about that at the appropriate time. Does the hon. Member propose merely to strengthen the military establishment or to import more men from Malabar to suppress the rebellion or would he immediately set up a machinery to find out the causes of discontent? These causes need not be ascertained from Srirama Razu or from any of his followers. I am sure that the local officers and the local people would be able to tell us more about the causes of this rebellion or rather I hope that the representatives from that part of the country would add to my remarks. While not opposing the measures that have been undertaken by Government to suppress this rebellion, I think simultaneously an open enquiry into the causes of the rebellion and about the removal of the grievances which these people have must be made. I do not wish to object to this grant but I trust that the hon. Member would wish to put down the rebellion with as small a military force as possible. Otherwise it would be another Malabar. The hon. Member may come forward with a supplementary grant of two lakhs in December and by the time of the budget discussion he may come forward with a motion for another additional grant."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Sir, I rise not to oppose
12-30 p.m. this grant but to elicit certain information from Government about the rebellion. The Government do not seem to

have more information than the public in this matter, because the name of the rebel, first of all, seems to be uncertain to them. In the first three communiqués they said that one Alluri Sitarama Razu was the rebel, but in the last one they say that Srirama Razu is the rebel. We want to know exactly who it is that heads this rebellion.

"Then, I have put a question—question No. 441 that has been answered to-day—about the real cause of this rebellion. In a communiqué of the Government it was stated that this Alluri Sitarama Razu or Srirama Razu wanted to set himself up as an independent chief and has been giving trouble on that account. We want to know definitely whether that is the real cause, i.e., whether the ambition of Srirama Razu is at the bottom of this mischief or whether there are any other causes. A newspaper reference was made, I think, in the *Statesman* of Calcutta, and one signing himself as W.N.P. said that he had had information about it and he referred to a sub-inspector of police finding a non-co-operator preaching rebellion had reported the matter but that the civil authorities allowed that non-co-operator to go on. It was the same Sitarama Razu that was so found. What we want to know is whether the Government think that non-co-operation is at the bottom of this rising.

"Then there were other risings in the Agency, though not simultaneously with this but previous to this. *Fituris* at Rampa are very frequent, and we have had several *fituris* of this kind. What was the cause of these rebellions in the past and what is the cause of the rebellion now? In dealing with the rebellion the Government have taken a step in the matter of depriving

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muttadars of their muttas or zamindaris, and in one instance it is said that a certain muttadar has been deprived of his zamindari. We want to know which that zamindari is and whether such action on the part of the Government at the present stage, namely, the policy of depriving muttadars of the zamindaris has not indirectly, if not directly, tended to strengthen the rebellion and strengthen the hands of Sitarama Razu or Srirama Razu whatever his name may be. It may be that, deprived as they were of their zamindaris, they would have sent in forces and strengthened the hands of Sitarama Razu. That is the point of view which has to be taken into consideration.

"Then it is said by the public that the method of campaign is not what it should be. Having Narasapatam as a base camp and driving the rebels into the Agency is not a very tactical affair. Instead of driving them out of the Agency you drive them in and lengthen the period of this trouble. It is therefore necessary that this point of view also should be placed before the Government. Therefore I venture to suggest the possibility of having a base camp near the Gudem hills and then extend it to the Duseti border and drive the rebels out of the Agency into the plains where they could be easily caught.

"These are certain aspects of the question which require to be dealt with by the Government. As I said before, I do not rise to oppose the grant. On the other hand, we have every sympathy with the Government in the restoration of peace and order in that tract of country. But the public, at least the people near the Agency tracts, think that there have been grievances which require to be redressed and these grievances have been at the root of this rebellion. There seems to be a common grievance in order that Srirama Razu should have been able to find recruits from among the Agency people. Without that common grievance it would not have been possible for Sitarama Razu actuated only by his ambition to set himself up as an independent chief and to create a rebellion there. Whether there are such local causes should be ascertained, and if possible these grievances should be redressed, so that Sitarama Razu or Srirama Razu may not have the following that he has now. His following, according to the Government, is only 80 or thereabouts, but it appears from other sources of information that there are many more who have been hiding in the Gudem hills and that there is a sort of sympathy from the people outside for this Sitarama Razu. Evidently there is some local grievance which has to be found out. It is only the possible theory that I place before the House and it is for the Government to consider and investigate the matter, and let us know the real causes of the rising."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, let me once for all say that I am not an expert in military matters, and therefore I do not propose to follow my hon. friend from Ganjam in the tactical intricacies of the situation with which he has dealt just now. As I listened to my hon. friend, I thought that a Napoleon had been extinguished in a Member of the Legislative Council. Nor do I think that it is a matter in which the Government could undertake an immediate enquiry into the grievances, and I am of opinion that undoubtedly an enquiry must be made into the matter and that Government should formulate constructive proposals by which such rebellions may in future be averted as much as possible. When a house is

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on fire the first thing we have to do is to put out the fire as quickly as possible. But, at the same time, I entirely agree with my hon. friend who suggested that some kind of enquiry must be made without loss of time as soon as the conditions of the tract have been restored to normal, so that the matter may be fully explored and the country made to feel that Government is there not merely to punish criminals but also to redress any grievances which might be felt by the people. If this subject of the grievances of the people and of the necessity for investigating them has been raised at this stage at all, it is probably because of the disastrous policy pursued by the Government in respect of Malabar, where even for a considerable period after the rebellion was put down, no such enquiry had been made by the Government as the country expected them to make. If they had done that, I do not think that my hon. friends would have placed that point before the House now. We all know that a definite assurance was given by the Right hon. Mr. Montagu when he was Secretary of State for India that any time the military were brought in to restore peace and order, the restoration of peace would be immediately followed by the institution of an enquiry of the kind now suggested."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"May I ask, Sir, when and where that undertaking was given?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"That was given, Sir, in connexion with the Punjab debate in the House of Commons. What I want to say now is that this House should give every support to the Government in its endeavours to restore order. At this stage I would deprecate all kinds of criticism of the Government.

"I wanted to raise a technical point also, but in view of the statement made by the hon. Mr. Knapp, I feel it rather inopportune to do so now. In the Devolution rules it is clearly stated that the Finance Department shall examine and advise on all schemes of new expenditure for which it is proposed to make provision in the estimates, and shall decline to provide, in the estimates, for any scheme which has not been so examined. It is obvious from the statement made by the hon. the Home Member that this rule cannot apply to military operations or to circumstances that may suddenly arise, such as the *fituri* we are discussing. If so, I would suggest the propriety of our taking steps to have that rule modified in order to provide a more generous or a more extended application. However, that is by the way.

"But I cannot conclude my observations on this subject before making two points perfectly clear. One is that the country expects an enquiry to be instituted into the causes of this rebellion including any grievances of the local people, and also proposals to be formulated by which the possibilities of the outbreak of such rebellions may be rendered very remote if not actually impossible. The second point is this. We cannot let this matter go on without, in the first place, expressing our hearty approval of the measures taken by the Government to restore peace and order in those tracts, and expressing our deep sympathy for the gallant officers and men who lost their lives in the discharge of their duty and I am sure this House is with me when I say that we all appreciate the services that they have rendered and deeply deplore the calamities and sufferings they have had to endure. When

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several officers and men have lost their lives, it is impossible for this House to withhold their sympathy for them. Finally, the Government will have to see that the rebellion is put down as easily and economically as possible. There is the financial side of the question to be taken into account, and even war is no justification for not taking it fully into consideration. Even the War Minister in the Great War carried on his work with economy. When any such idea is expressed here, we are at once confronted with a suspicion that we are not helping the Government to the best of our ability, but I may say quite frankly that we feel it more necessary to do so in the interests of the country. Lastly,—I do not quote any opinion on this point—I do think that the Government should give an undertaking that they would appoint a committee to go into this question. With these observations, I heartily support this grant."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, it is not at all desirable at this stage to question how the expenditure is to be met or whether it is proceeding on economical considerations. The tract of country under rebellion is very peculiar. It is full of thick forests, and I am told the conditions of Malabar are quite different from those of Gudem. I was told that in Malabar the forest was not so thick as in the case of Gudem, and the very fact that one individual with only 50 or 60 followers was able to defy the Government for more than two or three months is sufficient proof that the tract is very inconvenient for any operations. The men in the Agency district feel for the unhappy loss of two able officers, and those that were specially acquainted with Mr. Scot-Coward do feel the great loss to the service, and in his particular case we know that he was specially acquainted with the area in question as he had served in Narasapatam as Assistant Superintendent for some time. I was also told that he was on leave and immediately he landed in India he came to learn of this rebellion, and offered his services and went there, and that he was on the point of catching the rebels, when he met with his sad death.

" But Gudem is a portion of the Agency tract that was connected formerly with Narasapatam and Chodavaram taluks and its connexion with the headquarters of those two taluks was rather very satisfactory. But on account of the formation of the Agency tract, this was made
12-4 5 p.m. a separate taluk and tacked on to the Polavaram division which is far off from this portion, and communications have yet to be made. My impression is that had Sitarama Razu been under the immediate control of the Divisional Officer at Narasapatam, which is only sixteen miles away, there would have been better opportunities for studying the movements of this individual and for keeping him under control. But for a Divisional Officer sitting a couple of hundred miles off, so to say, it would be difficult to handle the situation.

" I have been recently there, and I find that there is a general impression among the people that the rebels are only aiming at European lives and that Indian lives are safe. Whatever may be the causes for that, it is very desirable that such an impression should be eradicated from the minds of the public. There were one or two instances, I was told, when police sub-inspectors and inspectors were caught hold of by the rebels and were let off after some time. If these stories are true, it requires serious consideration by

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the Government as to how these inspectors could go there without any arms, without having even a pistol, or without using them if they had any. My impression is that such an idea is gaining ground every day among the people, and I am sure it will have a very bad effect upon the minds of the hillmen, if this continues to prevail for long. Any Indian or European must go with arms. So far as I can gather, there is some lame excuse given that if the Indian officers are allowed to go in arms they might be taken away from them. I think in this case we must be prepared for any contingency and must meet them boldly and try to put an end to all these troubles. So far as I can gather the rebels are now within a distance of seven miles from Krishnadevapetta, a place known as Ganugula and it is in the midst of three big important centres, namely, Narasapatam, Krishnadevapetta and Lambasingi where there are good police forces. If the rebels are successfully able to resist all the police, it is not on account of their capacity but on account of the peculiar nature of the country. The rebels are not really infusing any terror among the Indian population; because they believe that they will not be molested. If really there has been any molestation of the Indian people, certainly there would have been some natural remedy of retaliation against them, and they would have easily been caught hold of by the people. Of course these are my personal impressions after studying the conditions for a number of days.

“The Malabar police is a very able police, well trained in the operations and it was well complimented by the officers now commanding the operations, and it is yet to be seen how far this police will be able to do any effective work in this peculiar tract of country. The rebels are not actually doing any mischief to the people, but they are taking very dangerous positions on the hill-tops and watching the whole progress of work all round them. Whether the Malabar police will be able to do any effective work shortly, so that we may get rid of this trouble very soon, is a point which the Government may very carefully study. But the only point I want to urge is that it is not at all desirable that the other hill people should go on with the impression that they would be left unmolested. Recently I was told that while rations were being taken from Krishnadevapetta to Lambasingi or Chintapalli they were taken hold of by the rebels without any resistance by the police that was following. Such incidents do require careful enquiry at the hands of Government and must be prevented so that they may not spread widely in the area.”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“I want to say only one word with reference to this matter. No doubt it is necessary, as my friends have stated, to make an enquiry into the causes that have led to this rising. But what we are immediately concerned with is not the cause or causes which led to this outbreak, but the urgent need for putting it down. Apparently a large force is operating in those places; we have been informed that about fifteen officers are in charge of those operations and a correspondingly large number of men are also employed in that area. I have been told by some persons who have come from that part of the Presidency—of course it is not possible for me to say whether the information communicated to me is correct or not—that the leader of this gang Sitarama Razu or Srirama Razu, whatever his correct name may be, is a man of some education, is a school-final man, and a pious man too. That makes it all the more dangerous.

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It is for this very reason that the leader is a man of some education and is considered with some esteem in that locality that urgent and immediate need arises for putting down this rebellion promptly. If it is allowed to continue, the chances are that it will spread probably very rapidly and on an extensive scale and, God forbid it, Malabar rebellion may be repeated on a small scale in the Agency. It should be the earnest endeavour of the Government as well as of the Council to immediately and promptly put down this rebellion and to enquire into the causes thereof after the danger is over; so that I would urge upon my friends to postpone the consideration of finding out the causes of this rebellion and to confine their attention for the present to the great need that exists for voting for this grant."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"Mr. President, the observations made by my hon. friend Mr. Narasimha Raju are very instructive. He has told us that some of the police were not able to cope with the rebels because they did not take the precaution of going to them armed. This shows, Sir, that it is impossible for European officers who have been sent to those places to have a thorough knowledge of the country or even that amount of knowledge which will enable them to carry on any sort of campaign. I know that many villagers will walk at 12 or 1 o'clock at night through waste tracts and through wild jungles, for they know every intricate part, every bush. So, in the case of these operations, it is very necessary that the police should have some trustworthy and loyal guides.

"Secondly, British Rule in India does not rest, Sir, on the force of arms, does not rest upon the few military stations, but it rests upon prestige. Till a few years ago, fortunately for us, there were no troubles, but of late we have had tragedy succeeding tragedy; there was the Malabar tragedy, and now we have the tragedy in the Agency tracts, and the lives of young and promising officers have been lost owing to these unfortunate risings. If these risings and troubles should go on, not only would the country enjoy no peace, but also the people living in peace-loving parts of the Madras Presidency would be unfortunately taxed. For, money will be wanted in order that repairs may be made for the ravages and destruction committed by the rebels; so that the time has arrived when the department should seriously consider the necessity of having a very well-trained and efficient police able to cope with the risings, a police having an intimate knowledge of the country and also commanding the services of trustworthy guides, and going about armed and taking all possible precautions to put down these risings, to nip them in the bud, so as to save unnecessary expenditure and also unnecessary waste sometimes."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—"Mr. President, I do not share the apprehensions of my hon. friend from Malabar and I believe the rebellion of which so much has been spoken is due to economic causes that were rife in the Agency tracts for a long time. It was however a few months ago, that we had similar complaints from the Khond Agency and I was told that the reserve police at Russellkonda were posted to the Khond Agency and I have reason to believe that similar economic grievances or some unredressed grievances of the people that inhabited the Agency must have led the innocent Khonds and Koyas of these Agency tracts to give vent to their feelings in this way. The grievances were there from time to time;

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they were brought to the notice of the officials without any redress being given. Perhaps this Sitaram Razu, or whoever he is, has caught hold of the opportunity and played his own tricks, and I am sure that those innocent people were led away. Therefore, there is absolutely no reason to apprehend that a 'Malabar' might be manifested in the Madras Agency. I agree with my friend Mr. Sasibhushana Rath that the undertaking of operations (though I myself admit that I am no authority in military transactions) for driving the Khonds into the interior of the Agency tracts cannot be said to be a very excellent idea especially when we know that there are the adjoining hilly tracts of Central India, Orissa, Gurgats and the Agency tracts of Madras.

"I know that the Khonds of Jeypore had similar grievances and we shall not be surprised that there may be manifestations of their feelings in some shape or other. It has to be very sadly admitted, Sir, that even when public men go to represent their grievances they are more regarded as agitators and sometimes regarded as non-co-operators, and are treated with scant courtesy. It is no wonder, therefore, that such manifestations occur in the usual course, I say usual course, because when a series of grievances remain unredressed it is very natural that it should manifest itself in some form or other. A silly people not knowing how to get their grievances remedied get into the clutches of any one that shows some sympathy for them. That is, Sir, the only logic I could conceive of. But still I would appeal, I would rather caution Government, to treat the people with due mercy, with the mercy that they deserve, after putting down the rebellion. I am sure that the Council will not hesitate to grant any money that the Government might feel it necessary to have."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"Mr. President, I do not think that the Council expects me to go in detail into the various remarks that have been made in connexion with this demand. Many of them have been of great interest and among them I have noted some for consideration as soon as possible. There are three points of detail which I think it desirable to refer to. A suggestion was made on the other side of the House that some wrong had been done to a Muttadar and it was, I think, further suggested that this might lead other Muttadars to join the rebellion. That particular Muttadar is now actually in jail on a charge of harbouring the rebels and it is difficult to understand why my hon. friend has now come forward with a matter which is *sub judice*. Reference was also made to the capture of certain sub-inspectors by the rebel chief and a suggestion was also made that that capture was possible because they were unarmed. From the accounts I have had, one of the sub-inspectors had a revolver and the Razu recognizing that a revolver, unless in expert hands, was worse than useless, gave back the revolver. In the case of the other sub-inspector, he was not in uniform, being on intelligence work, and he was going about as an ordinary traveller. For that reason he was not carrying a revolver with him.

"Sir, the main point, of course, in connexion with this debate, is the cause of the rebellion. I am very glad to find that the majority of the speakers hold the right view on the matter, that this is not the moment when we are likely to ascertain the causes of the rebellion. I need hardly assure the House that the Government recognize as well as they do, that when we

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have put out the fire it will be absolutely essential to try and discover the causes of it and the way in which to prevent further conflagrations. My hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, is inclined to think that some measure of conciliation is possible and he quoted a precedent from what my predecessor did in 1879. Sir, it is not possible to put a bangle on the hand of a man who is waiting for you with a rifle behind a rock; that is a duty which I would gladly delegate to any other Member of this Council.

"All I need add is, to repeat that we have every intention to make the fullest possible investigation as soon as the conditions will allow us to do so. Mr. Huggins has recently joined as Agency Commissioner (hitherto we had only an acting man). I hope to be able to see him next week, and I shall not lose the opportunity of ascertaining from him as definitely as possible what the causes of the rebellion are, as far as they are ascertainable, and I shall impress upon him the necessity of losing no opportunity of discovering what grievances there may be. I think it is most likely that there may be grievances which have to be redressed. I can assure the House that any information that we may get sooner or later on the subject will be fully laid before the House for information."

The demand was then put to the House and carried and the grant made.

VII

THE PRINCE OF ARCOT ENDOWMENTS BILL, 1922.

Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR (*Advocate-General*):—"Mr. President, under Standing Order No. 43, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Prince of Arcot Endowments Bill; and under the Standing Order, also, I shall confine myself to a very brief statement of some additional facts. Hon. Members of this House who have perused the report will find that in three places there has been a departure made from the scheme of the original Bill. One matter is referred to in paragraph 5 of the report. On investigation and by taking evidence in the matter it was found by the Select Committee that there are now a number of endowments which were not in the management of the Prince of Arcot. It was therefore possible to eliminate them from the scope and orbit of the Bill. Two other alterations have been made in the direction of enlarging the privileges of the members of the public and it may be taken that they are contained in paragraphs 6 and 12 of the report. Consistently with the position and rights of the Prince of Arcot, attempts have been made to increase the control of the public over these. With these observations I beg to present the report."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"I second the motion."

The motion to present the report of the Select Committee was then put to the House and agreed to.

Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR (*Advocate-General*):—"Mr. President, before the hon. Mr. Krishna Rao moves his amendment, may I draw the attention of the House to a misprint in clause 1 of the Bill? In line 12, '1921' should be '1922'. When the Bill was drafted it was expected to be passed in 1921 and I trust I have the necessary permission to alter this misprint."

The House having assented to '1922', being substituted for '1921', the Council then took up the Bill clause after clause.